

Grant Monument ("Grant's Tomb," now  
General Grant National Memorial)  
Riverside Drive  
New York  
New York County  
New York

HABS No. NY-5429

HABS  
NY,  
31-NEYO,  
69-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

APPENDIX  
FOLLOWS...

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
801 19th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006

## GRANT MONUMENT

("Grant's Tomb," now General Grant National Memorial)

HABS  
NY,  
31-NEYO,  
69-

Address: Riverside Drive between West 122nd and West 123rd  
Streets, New York, New York County, New York.

Present Owner: National Park Service

Present Occupant: National Park Service

Present Use: National memorial to General Ulysses S. Grant.

Statement of  
Significance: Designed by John H. Duncan, this monument to honor  
General Ulysses S. Grant, who had served his country  
also as president, was constructed from 1891 through  
1897. Funds for the building were raised through  
public donations.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: The memorial was erected in  
Riverside Park, which is owned by the City of New York. In  
addition, the following records are on file in the Register's  
Office, Municipal Building, New York:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Grantee</u>
2/17/1959 Liber 5067, page 546.	Grant Monument Association	The Secretary of the Interior, as the Representative of the United States of America
5/12/1959 Liber 5076, page 664.	The City of New York	United States of America, Washington, D.C.

2. Date of erection: On April 27, 1891, ground was broken for  
the monument; and on April 27, 1897, the monument was  
dedicated.
3. Architect: John H. Duncan (1853-1929).
4. Original plans and construction of the building: On July 23,  
1885, General Ulysses S. Grant died at Mount McGregor, New  
York. From August 5 through 7 his body lay in state at the  
New York City Hall. The funeral procession, held on  
August 8, began at City Hall and proceeded to a temporary  
tomb, a brick vault, located in Riverside Park, near the  
site of the present memorial.

On July 28, 1885, the Mayor of New York called a meeting to organize support for erecting a monument to Grant, and on July 29 the Grant Monument Committee was formed. This committee was superseded on February 3, 1886, by the Grant Monument Association, whose purpose it was to raise funds for the monument. An architectural competition was held, and on September 11, 1890, the design submitted by John H. Duncan was chosen. Ground was broken on April 27, 1891, and the cornerstone was laid by President Harrison on April 27, 1892. On April 17, 1897, Grant's body was removed from the temporary brick vault to the new monument, and on April 27, 1897, the tomb was dedicated. At the time of the formal dedication, however, certain sculptural work and landscaping had not been completed.

The stone for the sarcophagus, a dark red granite, was quarried at Montello, Wisconsin, while that for the pedestal, a dark bluish-gray granite, was quarried at Quincy, Massachusetts. Mrs. Grant's body was placed in the monument in 1902.

5. Alterations and additions: On May 26, 1966, the mosaic murals in the lunettes in the interior of the monument, were dedicated. The murals, which fulfilled Duncan's scheme for the building, were executed by the Venetian Art Mosaics Studio after paintings by Allyn Cox.
6. Important old views:
  - a. Photograph by James Bindon of the artillery passing the reviewing stand at the dedication of the monument on April 27, 1897. Photo Archive, Museum of the City of New York. (See HABS photocopy).
  - b. The Map and Print Room of the New-York Historical Society has a small collection of old photographs of the building, some showing the temporary brick vault.

## B. Sources of Information

### 1. Secondary and published sources:

"Competition Designs for Grant's Tomb, by John H. Duncan, Carrere & Hastings, John Ord, C. W. Clinton, and J. A. Schwenfurth," The American Architect and Building News, XXX (October 18, 1890), 41-42, and plates number 773.

"Competitive Designs for a Memorial to General Grant, The American Architect and Building News, XVIII (September 26, 1885), 150-51, and plates number 509.

Money and Monuments, A Tract for the Times. 1885. (Copy  
at the New York Public Library).

"Mosaic Murals at Grant's Tomb Dedicated," The New York  
Times, May 27, 1966, p. 1.

Official Programme, Grant Memorial Parade and Dedication of  
the Tomb of General Grant, April 27, 1897. (Copy at the  
New York Public Library).

Official Programme of the Exercises at the Dedication of the  
Monument and Tomb of General Ulysses S. Grant Under the  
Direction of the Municipal Grant Monument Committee,  
Riverside, New York City, April 27, MDCCCXCVII. (Copy  
at the New York Public Library).

Seven Mile Funeral Cortège of Gen'l Grant in New York,  
August 8, 1885. Boston: The U. S. Instantaneous  
Photographic Co. 1886? (Copy at the New York Public  
Library).

Souvenir Memorial Programme, The Dedication of Grant's  
Sarcophagus Ceremonies, New York, April 27, 1897.  
(Copy at the New York Public Library).

Stokes, I. N. P. Iconography of Manhattan Island. New  
York: Robert H. Dodd, 1915.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement

1. Architectural interest and merit: Designed by John H. Duncan, this monument to honor General Ulysses S. Grant, who had served his country also as president, was constructed from 1891 through 1897. Funds for the building were raised through public donations.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

### B. Description of Exterior

1. Number of stories: One story with tombs located in a lower level.
2. Over-all dimensions: The building measures approximately 90 feet square.
3. Layout, shape: The building is rectangular in plan.

4. Wall construction, finish, and color: Gray granite. The north, east and west elevations have large rectangular niches; each contain four Doric columns.
5. Porch: Two rows of fluted Doric columns support the entrance portico; the outer row contains six columns, the inner row contains four. A parapet above the entrance is decorated with fascies. There is a bronze railing at the east and west ends of the portico.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: Double bronze doors open at center of portico with a bronze and plate glass vestibule located immediately inside.
  - b. Windows: Windows are located between the groups of four columns in the niches of the north, east and west facades. Windows on the north facade are of amber leaded glass, protected on the exterior with a two-light window. On the east facade, the three center windows are of amber leaded glass while the two end windows are single-light clear glass; all are protected by single-light windows on the exterior. On the west facade the three center windows are similar to the center windows on the east facade; the northern-most window is partially covered by sheet metal and the southern-most window is completely covered by sheet metal.
7. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: Conical stepped domed roof of granite.
  - b. Cornice: A triglyph and metope granite cornice at first level; another granite cornice above.
  - c. Tower: The lower, square portion of the monument is surmounted by a drum colonnade surrounded with free-standing Ionic columns and a continuous parapet of anthemion above.

#### C. Description of Interior

1. Floor plans, by floor: Entrance level: At the center is a balustrade surrounding a circular open space which overlooks the sarcophagi below. Projecting from each corner of this room is a small room. The rooms at the northeast and northwest corners have circular walls with murals showing the principal battles of the Civil War. The room at the southeast corner is used as an administrative office. The room

at the southwest corner is used for maintenance purposes. Stairway located along the north wall leads to lower level. Lower level: Six square columns and a balustrade surround sarcophagi; four niches along walls.

2. Stairway: Double descending stairway of marble leads to lower level. Southwest room contains spiral stair leading to balcony.
3. Flooring: Marble.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls are of marble. Dome with coffered ceiling is supported by pairs of fluted Ionic columns between pilasters having eagle motif above. The ceiling over the rest of the space consists of coffered marble vaults.
5. Lighting, type of fixtures: Electric lights in bronze fixtures.
6. Heating: Central.

D. Site and Surroundings

1. Orientation and general setting: The main facade faces south. The building is located in Riverside Park.
2. Landscaping and walks: Sidewalks and steps are of stone, with Belgian blocks laid in areas contiguous to retaining wall.

Prepared by Diana S. Waite  
Architectural Historian  
August, 1968

ADDENDUM to  
Grant's Monument  
Riverside Drive & W. 122nd Street  
New York City  
New York County  
New York

HABS No. NY-5429

HABS  
NY  
31-NY-5429  
69-

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWS...

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Addendum to:

GRANT'S MONUMENT

(Grant's Tomb)

(General Grant National Memorial)

Riverside Drive and W. 122 Street

New York

New York County

New York

HABS No. NY-5429

HABS  
NY  
31-14540  
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**PHOTOGRAPHS**

**WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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SI-NEYO,  
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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Data pages 1 through 5 were previously transmitted to the Library of Congress. This is data page 6.

INVENTORY OF PHOTOGRAMMETRIC IMAGES

The glass photogrammetric plates listed below are not reproducible except with special permission. However, reference prints and film copy negatives have been made from the plates indicated by an asterisk (\*) and are included in the Library of Congress collection of formal HABS/HAER photographs.

26      5" x 7" glass plate negatives (13 stereopairs) produced  
by Perry E. Borchers of the Ohio State University in 1963

One survey control contact print per plate; survey  
control information for each pair.

LC-HABS-GS05-T-2564-101L \*      SOUTH (FRONT) ELEVATION--LEVEL

LC-HABS-GS05-T-2564-101R      SOUTH (FRONT) ELEVATION--LEVEL

Left and right overlap: 90%

LC-HABS-GS05-T-2564-102L \*      SOUTH (FRONT) ELEVATION--INCLINED

LC-HABS-GS05-T-2564-102R      SOUTH (FRONT) ELEVATION--INCLINED

Left and right overlap: 90%

GRANT'S MONUMENT  
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LC-HABS-GS05-T-2564-103L *	EAST (SIDE) ELEVATION--LEVEL
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2564-103R	EAST (SIDE) ELEVATION--LEVEL
	Left and right overlap: 90%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2564-104L	EAST (SOUTH) FACADE--INCLINED
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2564-104R *	EAST (SOUTH) FACADE--INCLINED
	Left and right overlap: 90%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2564-105L *	NE CORNER ELEVATIONS--ANGLED VIEW
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2564-105R	NE CORNER ELEVATIONS--ANGLED VIEW
	Left and right overlap: 90%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2564-106L *	NE CORNER, ANGLED--INCLINED
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2564-106R	NE CORNER, ANGLED--INCLINED
	Left and right overlap: 90%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2564-107L *	LOWER FACADE, NORTH (REAR) ELEVATION--CLOSEUP
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2564-107R	LOWER FACADE, NORTH (REAR) ELEVATION--CLOSEUP
	Left and right overlap: 90%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2564-108L *	INTERIOR, LOOKING WEST AT MAIN FLOOR LEVEL-- LEVEL
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2564-108R	INTERIOR, LOOKING WEST AT MAIN FLOOR LEVEL-- LEVEL
	Left and right overlap: 80%

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LC-HABS-GS05-T-2564-109L	INTERIOR, LOOKING WEST AT MAIN FLOOR LEVEL-- INCLINED
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2564-109R *	INTERIOR, LOOKING WEST AT MAIN FLOOR LEVEL-- INCLINED
	Left and right overlap: 90%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2564-110L *	VERTICAL VIEW FROM MAIN FLOOR TO DOME
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2564-110R	VERTICAL VIEW FROM MAIN FLOOR TO DOME
	Left and right overlap: 95%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2564-111L *	INTERIOR, LOOKING WEST AT BALCONY LEVEL-- LEVEL
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2564-111R	INTERIOR, LOOKING WEST AT BALCONY LEVEL-- LEVEL
	Left and right overlap: 55%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2564-112L *	INTERIOR, LOOKING WEST AT BALCONY LEVEL-- INCLINED
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2564-112R	INTERIOR, LOOKING WEST AT BALCONY LEVEL-- INCLINED
	Left and right overlap: 55%
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2564-113L *	INTERIOR--VIEW ACROSS CRYPT
LC-HABS-GS05-T-2564-113R	INTERIOR--VIEW ACROSS CRYPT
	Left and right overlap: approximately 35%

PROJECT INFORMATION STATEMENT

Photogrammetric images were incorporated into the HABS/HAER collections in the summers of 1985 and 1986. Inventories of the images were compiled and filed as data pages for each structure recorded. Since the glass photogrammetric plates are not reproducible except with special permission, a reference print and film copy negative were made from one plate of each stereopair and from the most informative plates in sequential sets. The reference prints and copy negatives were then incorporated into the formal HABS/HAER photograph collections.

The Photogrammetric Images Project was a cooperative endeavor between the HABS/HAER Division of the National Park Service and the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress. The reference prints and film copy negatives of the original plates were made by the Library of Congress Photoduplication Service with funds provided by the Library of Congress Flat Film Preservation Fund. Additional reproductions were made by HABS/HAER. The project was supervised by HABS/HAER Architect John A. Burns, AIA, and completed by HABS Historians Jeanne C. Lawrence (University of London) in 1985 and Caroline R. Alderson (Columbia University) in 1986.